

Community Engagement

Planning for the Future of Mansfield's Schools

February 28, 2018

Welcome

Kathy Ward, Chair, Mansfield Board of Education

MISSION

IT IS THE MISSION OF THE MANSFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MANSFIELD COMMUNITY, TO ENSURE THAT ALL CHILDREN ACQUIRE THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ATTRIBUTES ESSENTIAL FOR PERSONAL EXCELLENCE IN LEARNING, LIFE, AND WORK WITHIN OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY.

**Mansfield
Board of
Education**

Information to Support Long-Range Planning

February 28

- Grade Configuration
- Build New or Renovate
- Number of Schools

March 7

- Transportation Implications
- Sites for Schools
- Sustainability Considerations

Agenda

6:00 – 6:30pm Welcome and Purpose for the Evening

6:30 – 7:30pm Information

- State Approval Process and Reimbursement Rates
- Cost to Mansfield to build new or renovate
- Research on grade configuration and size of school

7:30pm Transition to Discussion Groups

7:40 – 8:30pm Discussion Groups

We are following a 7-step process to develop the vision and plan for the district's learning spaces; steps 1 – 3 have already been completed.

Overview of Process

Complete

Decision Point

1

Gather Stakeholder Feedback

- ✓ Gather feedback in focus groups, community meetings, and classroom observations

2

Collect & Analyze Data

- ✓ Analyze quantitative district data
- ✓ Synthesize key themes from stakeholders and district data
- ✓ Identify needs for learning spaces to achieve district vision

3

Define Vision & Goals for Learning Spaces

- ✓ Share findings with Steering Committee
- ✓ Discuss feedback on emerging approaches
- ✓ Conduct design charrette with steering committee
- ✓ Draft and revise vision and goals

4

Make Decision Based on Vision & Goals, Enrollment, & Cost Projections

- Make decision regarding future of learning spaces based on vision and goals, projected enrollment, and cost estimates

5

Plan for Renovation/Construction

- Develop plan for renovations / new building(s)
- Engage architecture firm
- Develop school designs

6

Conduct Referendum

- Community votes on funds for renovation / new construction

7

Commence Construction

- Renovate / construct new learning spaces

Renovated or new school(s) complete

DMGroup & Steering Committee-led

District-led



District Management Group

Facilities Planning Study

Focused on educational outcomes and conditions to support those goals

- Identified Six Aspirational Goals
- Defined Context
 - Decreasing Enrollment
 - Aging Buildings in Need of Costly Maintenance
 - Declining State Revenue

These six goals will be used to guide the facilities planning process in a transparent and focused way.

Goals for Learning Spaces

We believe our learning spaces should include...

1

Common Spaces

Open, flexible common spaces that promote collaboration, teamwork, movement, and play

2

Classroom Spaces

Large, flexible classrooms that allow for project-based learning, collaboration, and movement

3

Quiet Spaces

Enclosed, soundproof spaces for individual reflection and quiet work time

4

Furniture & Seating

Multiple options for comfortable seating and standing which can be reconfigured to promote student agency in creating the environment that best meets their learning needs

5

Outdoor Spaces

Outdoor learning spaces which support the integration of the environment and academic learning

6

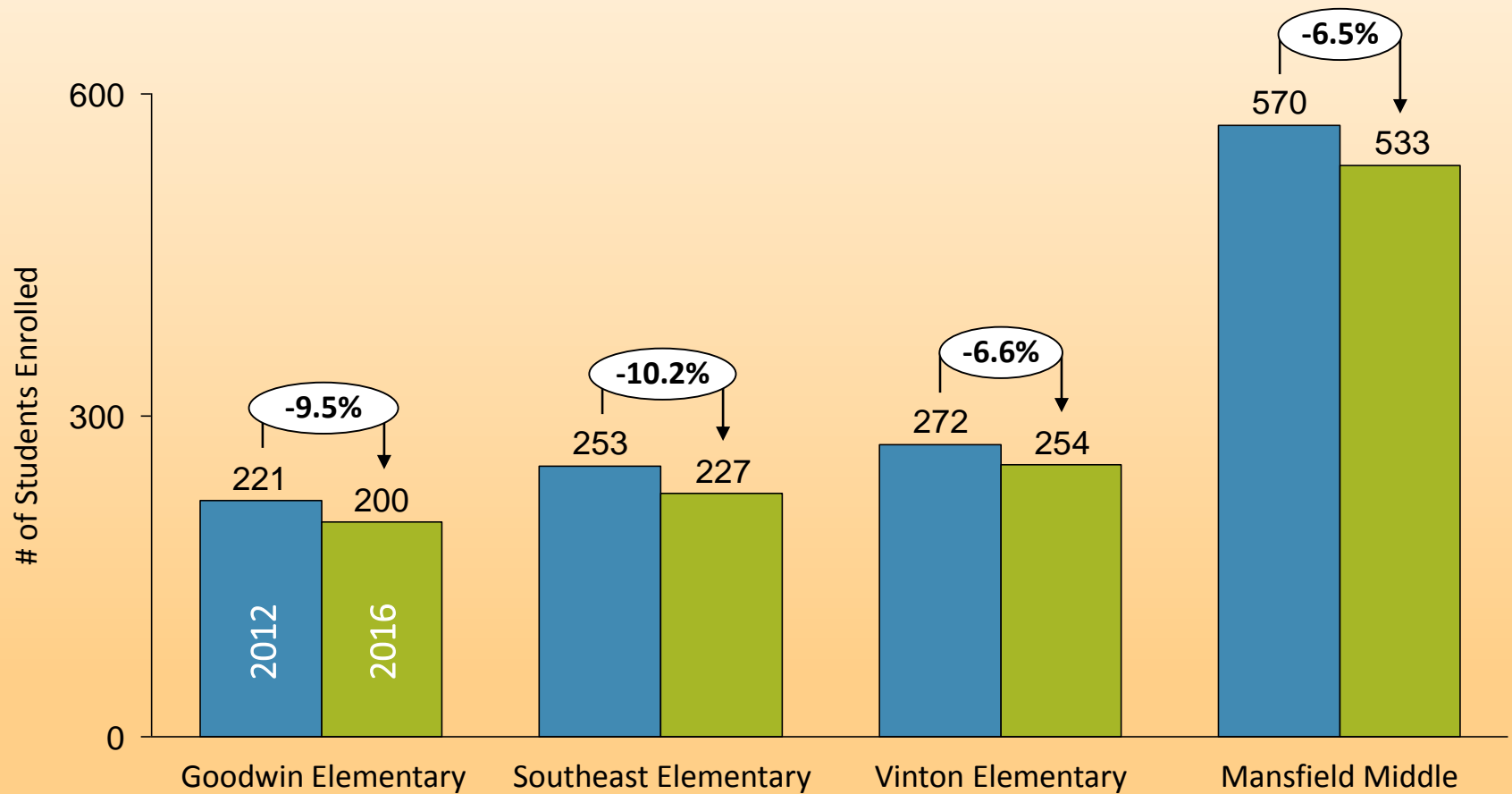
Accessible Resources

Accessible physical and digital resources, materials, and tools to facilitate student creativity and exploration



From SY2011-12 – SY2015-16, Goodwin and Southeast experienced a slightly larger enrollment decline than Vinton and Mansfield Middle School.

Historical Student Enrollment by School
SY2011-12 and SY2015-16



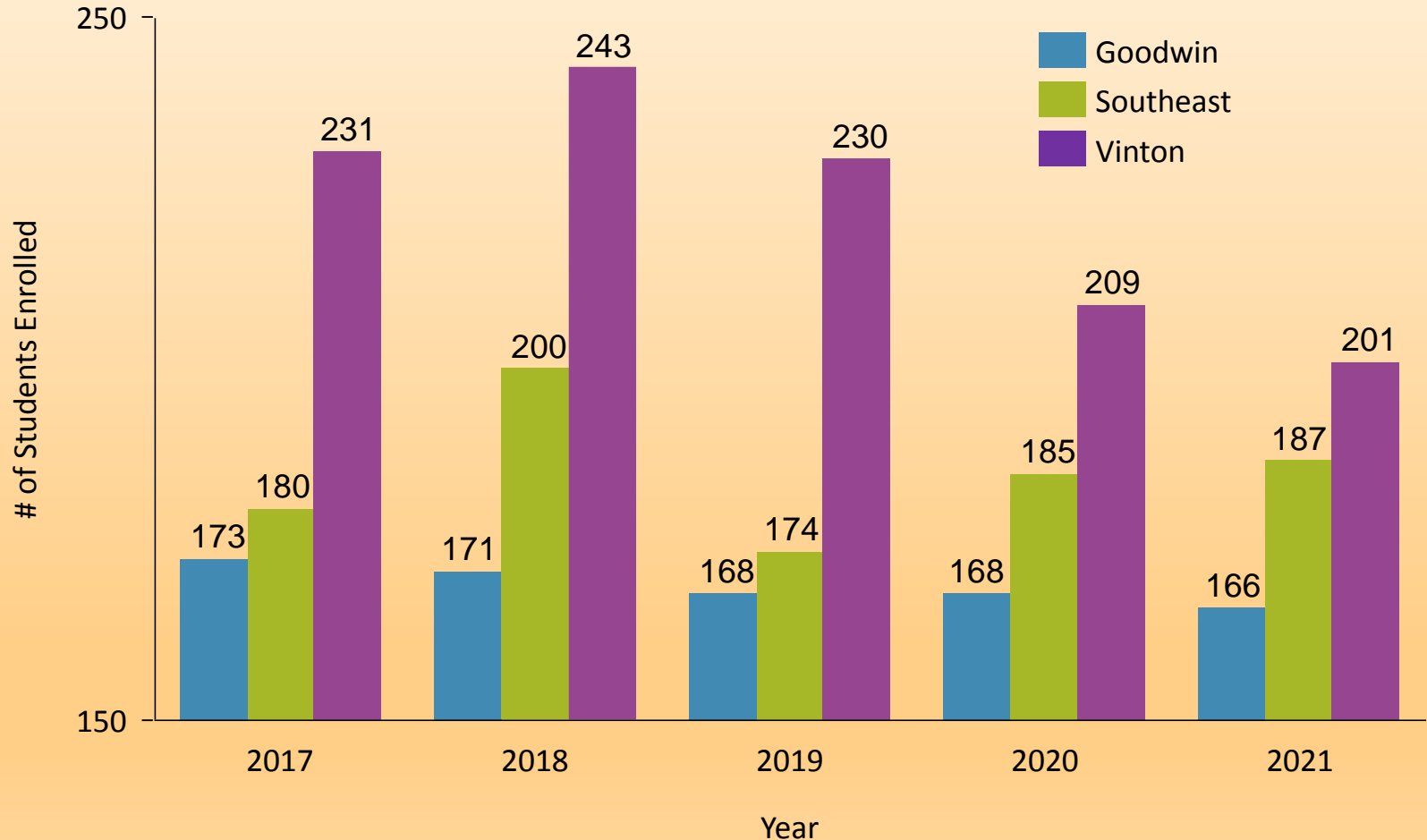
Source: Data provided by district



Overall enrollment at all three elementary schools is expected to continue to decline through SY2021-22.

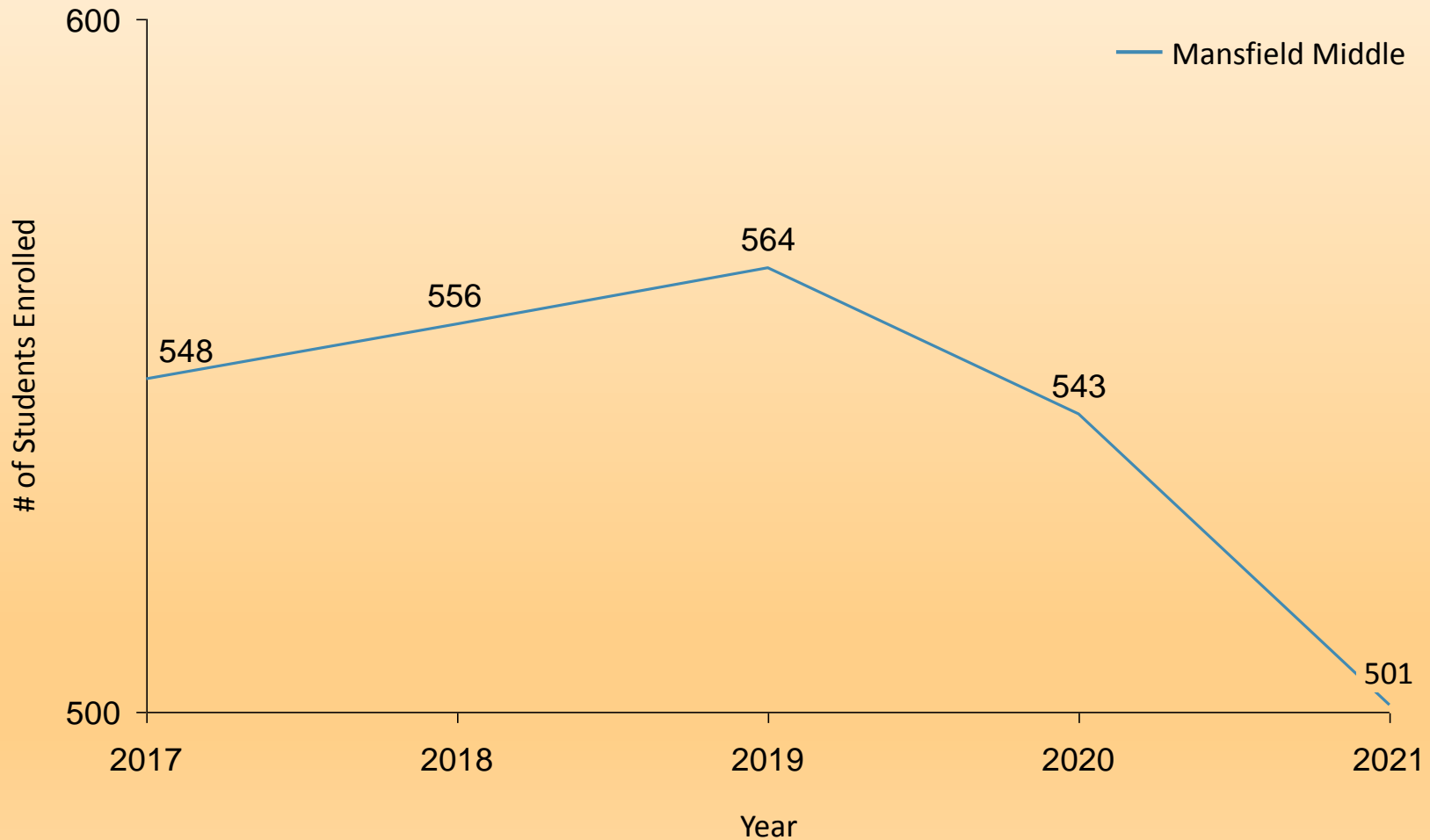
Projected Student Enrollment (Elementary Schools)

SY2017-18 to SY2021-22



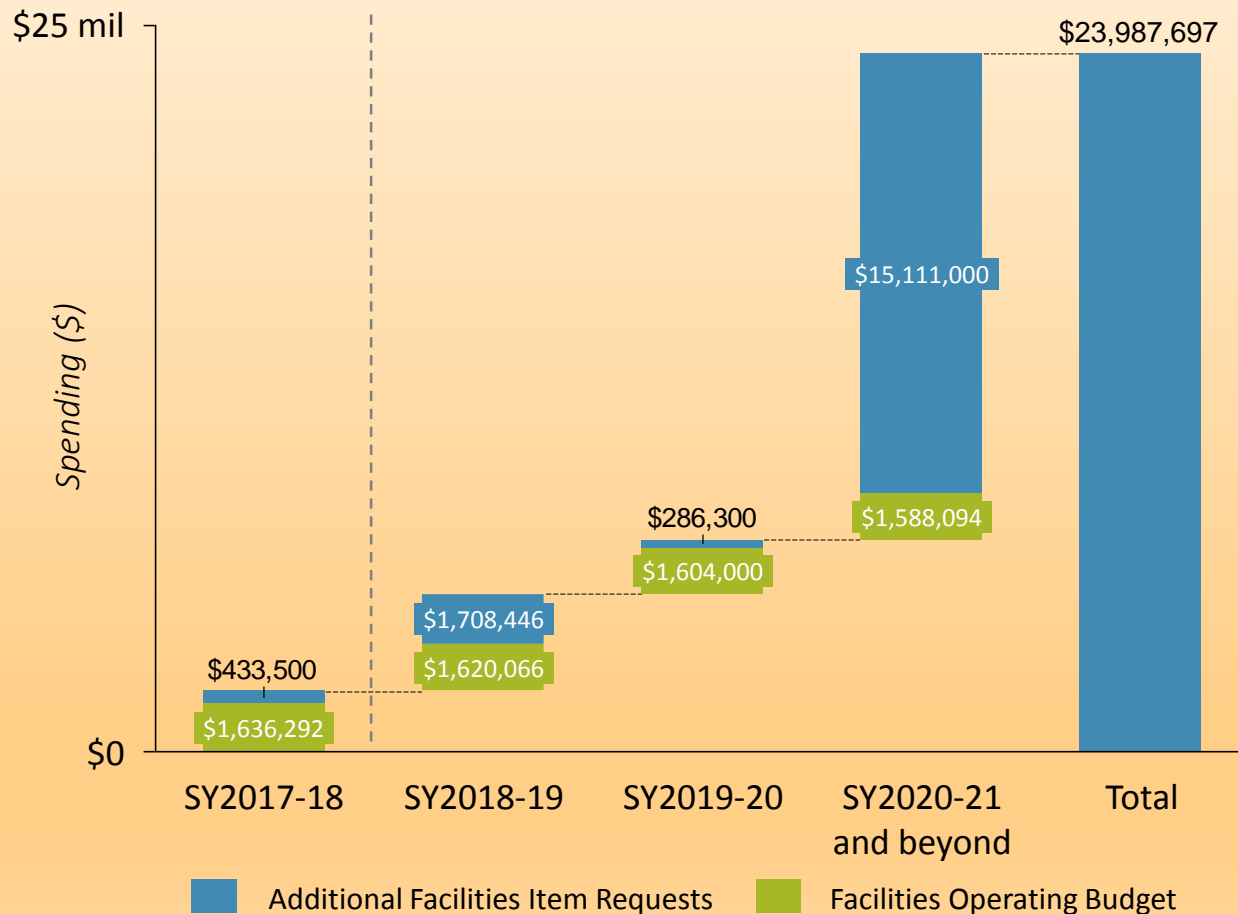
The overall decline in enrollment will eventually result in smaller student cohorts entering the middle school as well.

Projected Student Enrollment (Mansfield Middle)
SY2017-18 to SY2021-22



The current facilities operating budget and additional facilities requests combined total over \$23 million for the next 4 years and beyond.

Facilities Spending: Three-Year Budget and Beyond Current Funding SY2017-18 to SY 2020-21 and beyond



What are some examples of the additional facilities item requests?

2017-18

- Bathroom updates (Mansfield Middle)
- Outdoor painting (Vinton)

2018-19

- Roof replacement (Mansfield Middle)
- Floor tile repair (Southeast, Goodwin)

2019-20

- Electric and hot water heater replacement (Mansfield Middle)

2020-21 and beyond

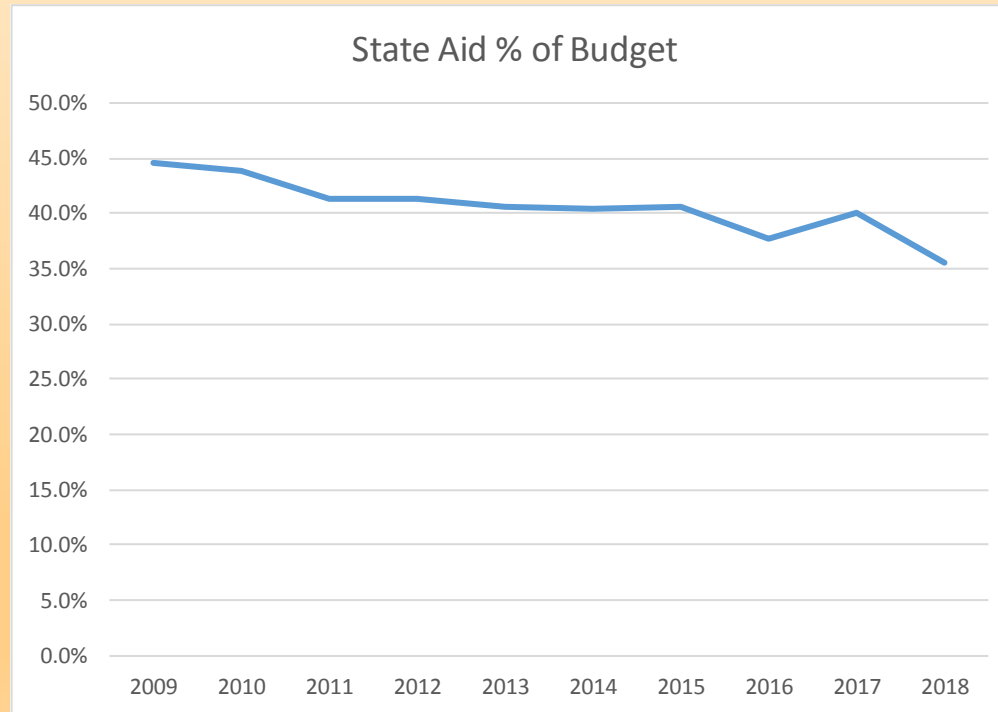
- Window replacement (Mansfield Middle)
- New elevator (Mansfield Middle)
- Sprinkler System (Mansfield Middle)
- Air conditioning (Goodwin, Southeast, Vinton)
- Window replacement (Goodwin, Southeast, Vinton)

Note: Projected facilities operating budget assumes a 1.0% decrease in facilities budget as occurred between SY2011-12 and SY2015-16



Reduction in State Revenue

(\$000's)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total State Aid	19,442	18,825	18,045	18,242	18,256	18,515	19,072	18,316	20,732	18,834
Total Town Adopted Budget	43,698	43,010	43,626	44,131	45,037	45,897	46,884	48,632	51,808	52,923
State Aid % of Budget	44.5%	43.8%	41.4%	41.3%	40.5%	40.3%	40.7%	37.7%	40.0%	35.6%



Since 2009, loss in State revenue and increases in the operating budget have resulted in an average annual increased cost to Mansfield of just over \$1M.

State Approval and Reimbursement

Kostantinos (Kosta) Diamantis

Director, Office of School Constructions Grants & Review

Taxpayer Costs

Cherie Trahan, Finance Director – Town of Mansfield, Mansfield Board of Education, and Region 19

Estimated Cost Comparison

Description	Cost #1	Cost #2	Cost #3	Cost #4	Cost #5
Project Details	Renovate all 3 elementary schools & the middle school	Renovate 2 elementary schools, close 1 elementary school & renovate the middle school	Build 2 new elementary schools, close existing elementary schools & renovate the middle school	Build 1 new elementary school, close existing elementary schools & renovate the middle school	Continue to maintain 3 elementary schools and the middle school
Cost to the Town	\$103,570,000	\$70,350,000	\$19,275,000	\$18,775,000	\$20,500,000

- Developed from the 2012 Newfield Construction project estimates, escalated to 2020 values
- Provided for general comparison purposes only until actual scope determined
- Renovations include: heavy renovations, roof replacement, solar panels, window replacements, replacement of elementary portables and environmental remediation
- New school estimates are based on current school construction guidelines for space, cost per square foot (capped at \$365/sq. ft.) and soft costs. Estimates are for one elementary school for 600 students and two elementary schools for 300 each.
- Cost to Town = total estimated project cost less school construction grant, if applicable

Note: Estimates prepared by UCONN MPA Capital Finance and Budgeting students (Dr. William Simonsen) and Town Finance Department.

Estimated Cost Comparison

Description	Cost #1	Cost #2	Cost #3	Cost #4	Cost #5
Annual Debt Service (FY2022)	\$8,326,000	\$5,657,000	\$1,550,000	\$1,510,000	\$1,650,000
Tax Rate Annual Impact per Household (FY2022)	\$1,118	\$760	\$208	\$203	\$221

Annual debt service is based on the issuance of General Obligation bonds in 2020 for the total town cost:

- Estimated interest at 3% and financing costs at 0.5% of total town cost
- There are many variations on how we could issue the debt to reduce our borrowing costs - these figures are illustrative only
- Cost of the annual debt service for the median home owner
- Based on the current median home assessed value of \$156,500
- Assumes debt service payments beginning in FY 2021-2022

Note: Estimates prepared by UCONN MPA Capital Finance and Budgeting students (Dr. William Simonsen) and Town Finance Department.

Estimated Cost Comparison

Description	Cost #1	Cost #2	Cost #3	Cost #4	Cost #5
State Reimbursement	0% elementary schools; 75.36% on eligible middle	0% elementary schools; 75.36% on eligible middle	65.36% elem. schools; 75.36% on eligible middle	65.36% elem. schools; 75.36% on eligible middle	0% elementary schools; 75.36% on eligible middle
Cost Savings	Limited energy	Limited energy and some operating	Energy and operating	Energy and operating	Minimal

- Mansfield's reimbursement rate for eligible renovations is 75.36%
- Renovations will only be funded if the project cost is less than the cost to build new
- Mansfield's reimbursement rate for new construction is 65.36%
- Each cost reflects the type of cost savings that might be achieved. Actual project scope must be defined in order to calculate actual cost savings
- Projects are subject to a space penalty if the project exceeds the maximum allowable square footage

Note: Estimates prepared by UCONN MPA Capital Finance and Budgeting students (Dr. William Simonsen) and Town Finance Department.

Grade Configuration and School Size Research

Kelly Lyman, Superintendent of Schools

Middle School Configuration

Many possibilities:

- Extended elementary: K-8
- Middle grades: 5-8; 6-8; 7-8
- Traditional junior high: 7-8; 7-9

Findings:

Middle School Configuration

- Support can be found for all models
- No definitive answers, no grade span is perfect
- Effective teachers, curriculum, and support are what matter
- Limiting transitions or having effective support programs at transition times makes a difference

Elementary School Configuration

Also Many Possibilities:

- Traditional: PreK-4; PreK-5; PreK-6
- Focused Grades, Primary and Intermediate:
PreK-2 and 3-5
- Primary Center: PreK-K and 1-4 or 1-5 or
1-6

Findings:

Elementary School Configuration

- Very limited research
- Negative effect of transitions is more significant for younger children
- Best configuration needs to be determined based on community needs, demographics, population density, etc.

School Size Research: Middle School

Here too, research is not conclusive but ...

- For academic outcomes, schools between 500 and 1,000 are suggested as optimal
- When considering academic and economic outcomes, schools between 300 and 500 are optimal

Major factor: improving academic outcomes for all students and preparing students for rigorous high school

School Size Research: Elementary

No universal optimal elementary school size

Consider:

- Socioeconomic status
- Available resources
- District size
- Curricular capabilities

School Size Considerations: Elementary

Socioeconomic (SES)

- Students who struggle, especially low SES benefit from small schools (350-400 students)
- Students from affluent backgrounds tend to perform better in larger settings

School Size Considerations: Elementary

Resources

- Unavoidable costs of smaller schools – teachers, space
- Educational and socio-emotional supports can foster close student-teacher bonds and caring school community in schools of any size

District Size

- Several smaller schools better suited to larger districts – reducing transportation costs
- Smaller districts may benefit from larger elementary schools – pool resources

Curricular Capabilities

Consider changing school size if:

- Small schools cannot provide basic curriculum
- School size is preventing the effective delivery of course content

School Structures that Support Schools for 21st Century

Knowledge economy demands high level of skills in:

- Cross cultural understanding
- Collaboration
- Persuasive communication
- Critical thinking

Learning, not teaching, must dictate school design

Design Measures

- Flexibility – allow for variety of learning environments
 - Individual, small group, 1:1., large group
 - Teacher directed, student presentation
- Sustainability
 - Positive impact of daylight and clean air;
 - Build student understanding of environmental concepts

Design Measures cont.

- Community Engagement
 - Include community in design
 - Build facility to benefit community\
- School Size
 - Meet community needs, vision, academic goals, and economics